(b) if so, whether Government have formulated any effective policy to bring a concrete and comprehensive change in the quality and standard of present education system; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The National Policy on Education (NPE), 1986 as modified in 1992, evolved on a national consensus, has laid down a comprehensive framework that guides the development of education in its entirety. It continues to be relevant and has stood the test of time. It stresses the need for improvement of the standard of education at all levels. The Policy envisages the need for re-organisation of the education system especially, technical and management education system with reference to the changes in economy, social environment, production and management processes, the rapid expansion of knowledge and the great advances in science and technology. As educational development is a continuous process, constant efforts have been made from time to time in consultation with State Governments and other stakeholders and appropriate changes have been brought about in the implementational aspects of the policy.

Hearing-Speech impaired children

2157. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of hearing-speech impaired children in the country;

(b) whether Government have formulated certain schemes for providing education to these children;

(c) if so, the details of the schemes;

(d) what steps Government have taken to integrate hearing impaired children in mainstream schools; and

(e) whether Government plan to instruct public/private schools also to accept children with learning difficulties and develop suitable infrastructure to provide quality education to these children?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (e) Statistics on the number of hearing-speech impaired children in the country is not maintained in this Ministry. The Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Integrated Education for Disabled Children (IEDC) of this Department which has the primary objective of integration of mild to moderately disabled children in visually impaired,hearing impaired, mentally retarded and orthopaedically handicapped categories in regular school has been providing the requisite facilities to such children. Under the IEDC scheme, benefits of transport allowances, expenses on books, stationery and uniforms, readers allowance in case of blind children after Class V, escort allowance, cost of equipment, attendent for severely orthopaedically handicapped children, boarding and lodging charges for disabled children residing in school hostels are extended to disabled children. The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment provides financial assistance to voluntary organisations for running educational/training centres for Hearing/Speech impaired under the scheme to Promote Voluntary Action for Persons with Disabilities. This Department has been writing to all States/UTs to ensure integration of mild to moderately disabled children in normal schools.

Janashala Programme

2158. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had launched 'Janashala' programme in collaboration with United Nations for implementation of the 'Education for All' resolution;

(b) if so, the salient features of the 'Janashala' programme;

(c) the Blocks/Districts of Jharkhand covered, if any, under the programme;

(d) whether any review of implementation of the 'Janashala' has been carried out in Jharkhand; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir.